

Listing of the Claims:

CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A wireless hands-free device, comprising:
a piconet front end adapted to establish an audio path with a wireless phone over a piconet network; and
a speakerphone functionality module.
2. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1, wherein:
said piconet network conforms to BLUETOOTH™ standards.
3. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1, wherein:
said speakerphone functionality module includes an echo canceller.
4. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1, wherein:
said speakerphone functionality module is adapted to interface with an external sound system of a vehicle.
5. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a driver ID register/memory adapted for storage of a unique identification of a current driver of a vehicle.
6. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a phone arbitrator module adapted to provide arbitrated access to any one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in said piconet network.
7. (withdrawn) The wireless hands-free device according to claim 6, further comprising:
an external selection control mounted for access by a user directing said wireless hands-free device as to which participant in said piconet network has a highest priority for usage of said wireless hands-free device.
8. (currently amended) A method of network management providing hands-free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, comprising:
providing hands-free functionality to each of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, wherein said piconet network is established within a vehicle;

registering one of said plurality of wireless phones, each registered wireless phone corresponding to an operator of said vehicle;

receiving a request for access to a wireless hands-free gateway from one of said plurality of wireless phones; and

providing, by said wireless hands-free gateway, hands-free functionality to said one of said plurality of wireless phones with a priority based on whether said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a registered wireless phone.

9. (currently amended) The method of ~~providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 8, wherein further comprising:

coordinating, by said wireless hands-free gateway, priority of access to an external network for each of said plurality of wireless phones when said piconet network is established within a the vehicle.

10. (currently amended) The method of ~~providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 9, further comprising:

determining, based on the step of registering, which of a plurality of participants in a said piconet network is a current operator driver of a said vehicle.

11. (currently amended) The method of ~~providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 10, further comprising:

if said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a registered wireless phone corresponding to the current operator a driver of said vehicle, denying access to any other one of said plurality of wireless phones until said one of said plurality of wireless phones has completed its use of said hands-free functionality.

12. (currently amended) The method of ~~providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 10, further comprising:

providing a highest priority for access to said hands-free functionality to each operator a driver of a said vehicle.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus for network management providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, comprising:

means for providing hands-free functionality to each of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network, wherein said piconet network is established within a vehicle;

means for registering one of said plurality of wireless phones, each registered wireless phone corresponding to an operator of said vehicle;

means for receiving a request for access to a wireless hands-free gateway from one of said plurality of wireless phones; and

means for providing, by said wireless hands-free gateway, hands-free functionality to said one of said plurality of wireless phones with a priority based on whether said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a registered wireless phone.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 13 ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

means for coordinating, by said wireless hands-free gateway, priority of access to an external network for each of said plurality of wireless phones when said piconet network is established within a the vehicle.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 14, further comprising:

means for determining, based whether said wireless phone is registered, which of a plurality of participants in a said piconet network is a current operator driver of a said vehicle.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for denying access to any other one of said plurality of wireless phones until said one of said plurality of wireless phones has completed its use of said hands-free functionality, if said one of said plurality of wireless phones is a registered wireless phone corresponding to the current operator a driver of said vehicle.

17. (currently amended) The ~~method of apparatus for providing hands free functionality to one of a plurality of wireless phones participating in a piconet network~~ according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for providing a highest priority for access to said hands-free functionality to each operator a driver of a said vehicle.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)